

FILED IN THE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

Feb 28, 2025

SEAN F. MCAVOY, CLERK

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

SAMUEL WAYNE BLANCHFIELD
(4),

Defendant.

No. 2:23-CR-00046-MKD-4

ORDER ACCEPTING REPORT AND
RECOMMENDATION ON GUILTY
PLEA AND SETTING SENTENCING
SCHEDULE

ECF No. 574

On February 13, 2025, Defendant Samuel Wayne Blanchfield (4) appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Alexander C. Ekstrom and entered a plea of guilty to Count 1 of the Information Superseding Indictment¹ filed on February 13, 2025, charging him with attempted distribution of methamphetamine, in violation of 21 U.S.C. §§ 841(a)(1), (b)(1)(C), 846. Defendant executed a written waiver of

¹ Defendant signed a Waiver of Indictment, ECF No. 569.

1 the right to enter his plea of guilty before the presiding United States District Judge
2 and a written consent to proceed before a United States Magistrate Judge. ECF
3 No. 572. Defendant was represented by Nicholas Marchi. Assistant United States
4 Attorney Thomas Hanlon appeared on behalf of the United States.

5 United States Magistrate Judge Alexander C. Ekstrom filed a Report and
6 Recommendation on February 14, 2025, ECF No. 574, finding that Defendant is
7 fully competent and capable of entering an informed plea, that Defendant is aware
8 of the nature of the charges and consequences of the plea, and that the plea of
9 guilty is knowing, voluntary, is not induced by fear, coercion, or ignorance, and is
10 supported by an independent basis in fact establishing each of the essential
11 elements of the crime.

12 The Court adopts the Magistrate Judge's Report and Recommendation, ECF
13 No. 574, and accepts Defendant's plea of guilty. However, the Court reserves
14 ruling on the Rule 11 nature of the plea agreement until the time of sentencing.

15 Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:**

16 1. **Sentencing Hearing:** A sentencing hearing is **SET** for **May 27, 2025**, at
17 **3:15 p.m.**, in **Spokane, Washington**.

18 a. **Continuance Requests:** Any requests to continue the sentencing
19 hearing **must (1)** demonstrate extraordinary circumstances, **(2)** be
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made by written motion, **(3)** indicate the positions of the opposing party and the U.S. Probation Officer on the continuance, and **(4)** be filed **at least three weeks** before the scheduled sentencing hearing. Any objections to the requested continuance shall be filed no later than 3 days after the motion to continue is filed.

b. Unless and until a requested continuance is granted, counsel should presume that the sentencing hearing will proceed as scheduled and prepare accordingly.

2. **Custody:** Defendant shall remain in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service pursuant to the detention order previously entered in this matter. ECF No. 236. **If a sentence of incarceration is imposed, Defendant shall remain in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.**

3. **PSR:** The United States Probation Office shall prepare a Presentence Investigation Report (PSR) pursuant to Fed. R. Crim. P. 32(c).

a. **If defense counsel wishes to be present for the PSR interview, defense counsel must make themselves available to attend the PSR interview within 14 days of the change of plea hearing. If defense counsel fails to do so, the Probation Officer is authorized to proceed with the PSR interview without defense counsel present.**

1 *See* Fed. R. Crim. P. 32(c)(2). The Probation Officer has the
2 discretion to extend the date of the PSR interview, but may not extend
3 the interview to a date that will require a continuance of the
4 sentencing hearing. If defense counsel does not respond to the
5 Probation Officer's communication about scheduling the interview
6 within three days, the Probation Officer is directed to contact and
7 advise chambers.

8 4. By the date set forth in the chart below, the Probation Officer shall
9 disclose the PSR to Defendant, counsel for Defendant, and the United States.
10 Disclosure of the PSR shall be subject to the limitations imposed by Rule 32 of the
11 Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure.

12 **5. Objections to PSR: Within 14 days of the filing of the PSR,** counsel
13 shall **file any PSR objections** as to legal and factual errors or omissions;
14 sentencing classifications; sentencing guideline ranges; and policy statements
15 contained in or omitted from the report. Objections shall be numbered and identify
16 the paragraph(s) to which the objection applies. Objections shall address the PSR
17 in sequential order, beginning with the lowest numbered paragraph. If an objection
18 is filed, the Probation Officer shall conduct such additional investigation as is
19 necessary to assess the merits of the objection.

1 **6. Final PSR:** The Probation Officer shall submit the final PSR to the
2 Court by the date set forth in the chart below. The PSR shall be accompanied by
3 an addendum setting forth any objections counsel made, including those that have
4 not been resolved, together with the officer's comments and recommendations
5 thereon. The Probation Officer shall certify that the contents of the report, other
6 than the sentencing recommendations, including any revisions or addenda, have
7 been disclosed to counsel for Defendant and the United States, and that the
8 addendum fairly states any remaining objections. Except with respect to any
9 written objection made as required above, the PSR and computations shall be
10 accepted by the Court as accurate. Upon a timely objection by Defendant, the
11 United States bears the burden of proof on any fact that is necessary to establish
12 the base offense level. The Court, however, for good cause shown, may allow that
13 a new objection be raised at any time before the imposition of sentence. In
14 resolving any disputed issues of fact, the Court may consider any reliable
15 information presented by the Probation Officer, Defendant, or the United States.

16 Nothing in this Order requires the disclosure of any portions of the PSR that
17 are not disclosable under Fed. R. Crim. P. 32. The PSR shall be deemed to have
18 been disclosed when the PSR is docketed on CM/ECF.

1 **7. Sentencing Memos/Motions:** By the date set forth in the chart below,
2 counsel shall file and serve all motions and memoranda pertaining to Defendant's
3 sentence, including departures and variances, and sentencing recommendations.

4 a. Initial sentencing memoranda are limited to 20 pages, absent prior
5 permission from the Court to file an overlength memorandum.

6 b. Counsel shall utilize the following format when preparing initial
7 sentencing memoranda:

8 I. Offense Level & Criminal History

9 II. Departures

10 III. 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)

11 c. Under Section I. Offense Level & Criminal History, counsel shall
12 discuss whether the PSR's Total Offense Level calculations (not
13 including departures) and Criminal History calculation are correct or
14 incorrect, providing legal authority for the party's position.

15 d. Under Section II. Departures, counsel shall discuss whether a
16 downward and/or upward departure is warranted under the Guidelines
17 and provide legal authority for such position.

18 e. Under Section III. 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a), counsel shall discuss whether
19 the resulting guideline range provides a reasonable sentence
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1 sufficient, but not greater than necessary to comply with the purposes
2 set forth in 18 U.S.C. § 3553(a)(2), considering the other factors listed
3 in § 3553(a).

4 e. **Failure to file and serve sentencing materials by this date, to**
5 **include motions for upward or downward departure, will be**
6 **deemed a waiver of the right to do so.**

7 8. **Responses:** By the date set forth in the chart below, the opposing party
8 shall file and serve its response, limited to no more than seven (7) pages.

9 9. **Safety Valve:** If Defendant intends to qualify for the safety valve, the
10 parties must conduct a safety valve interview to determine if the Defendant has met
11 the requirements of U.S.S.G. § 5C1.2(a)(5) by the date set forth in the chart below.

12 10. **Witnesses/Exhibits:** If either party intends to call witnesses or proffer
13 exhibits at sentencing, witness and exhibit lists must be exchanged by the parties
14 and provided to the Court by the date set forth in the chart below.

15 11. **Duration:** Sentencings shall be scheduled for a total of **45 minutes**. If
16 counsel believes that the sentencing hearing will last longer than 45 minutes,
17 counsel shall notify Chambers by the date set forth in the chart below to ensure that
18 sufficient time is scheduled.

1 **12. Pending Motions:** All pending motions pertaining to Defendant are
2 **DENIED as moot**, and all pending hearing and trial dates pertaining to Defendant
3 are **STRICKEN** from the Court's calendar.

4 13. This Order authorizes the District Court Executive to accept
5 Defendant's payment in the amount of \$100 per count, for a total of \$100, toward
6 Special Penalty Assessments.

7 **14. Summary of Deadlines**

8 Deadline for Defense Counsel to Attend PSR Interview:	March 14, 2025
9 Draft PSR disclosed:	April 18, 2025
10 PSR Objections filed:	May 2, 2025
11 Final PSR filed:	May 16, 2025
12 Motions to Continue Sentencing filed: Objections to Continuance filed:	May 6, 2025 3 days after motion filed
13 Safety-Valve Interview Conducted: (if applicable)	May 6, 2025
14 Sentencing Motions & Memoranda filed: Responses filed:	May 12, 2025 May 20, 2025
15 Deadline to notify Chambers if sentencing will require more than 45 minutes:	May 20, 2025
16 Witness Lists/Exhibit Lists filed:	May 20, 2025
17 SENTENCING HEARING	May 27, 2025 3:15 p.m. - Spokane, Washington

1 **IT IS SO ORDERED.** The District Court Clerk is hereby directed to enter
2 this Order and provide copies to counsel, the United States Probation Office, and
3 the United States Marshals Service.

4 DATED February 28, 2025.

5 s/Mary K. Dimke
6 MARY K. DIMKE
7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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